

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      PARAMA 00632 022203Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /050 W  
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R 021809Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4294  
INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 632

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB PROP NS UR  
SUBJ: SURINAM LABOR REPRESENTED AT MOSCOW MAY DAY FETE

REF: PARAMARIBO 445

1. INVITED BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SURINAM LABOR MOVEMENT TO ATTEND THE MAY DAY FESTIVITIES IN MOSCOW, THE SURINAM GOVERNMENT (GOS), CONFRONTED WITH PUBLIC DISUNITY AMONG LOCAL LABOR FEDERATIONS, FINALLY DECIDED TO SEND TWO DELEGATES. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERING VERSIONS OF WHO WILL PICK UP THE EXTRA COST, IT APPEARS THAT THE SOVIETS WILL STILL FINANCE ONLY THE EQUIVALENT OF ONE ROUND-TRIP ALTHOUGH LOCAL PUBLICITY PUTS THIS IN TERMS OF THE SOVIETS PAYING THE COSTS FOR BOTH SURINAM DELEGATES TO TRAVEL TO MOSCOW WITH THE GOS PAYING FOR THEIR RETURN.

2. INVITATION TO ATTEND MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS HAD BEEN PASSED ON TO LABOR FEDERATIONS BY GOS LABOR MINISTER PARMESSAR. FOUR OF THE FIVE FEDERATIONS GOT ZOGETHER IN EARLY APRIL AND SELECTED CHAIRMAN FRED DERBY OF THE C-47 (ALIGNED WITH THE NATIONALISTIC REPUBLIC PARTY, PNR) TO GO TO MOSCOW. MEANWHILE, THE CCL- AND AIFLD-AFFILIATED "DE  
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MOEDERBOND," WHICH HAS CLOSE TIES WITH PRIME MINISTER ARRON'S SURINAM NATIONAL PARTY, PROPOSED ITS OWN CANDIDATE, REFUSING EVEN TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE OTHER LABOR FEDERATIONS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE JOINT NOMINEES. RATHER THAN ALIENATE EITHER FACTON, GOS WORKED OUT PLAN FOR TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND THE MOSCOW EVENTS. ULTIMATELY, DERBY COULD NOT GO BECAUSE OF INVOLVEMENT WITH A

LOCAL LABOR-MANAGEMENT PROBLEM AND FELLOW PNR MEMBER HAROLD RUSLAND, CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIL SERVANTS' FEDERATION (CLO), WAS SELECTED TO REPRESENT SURINAM LABOR ALONG WITH MOEDERBOND TREASURER J. JHAWNIE.

3. COMMENT: GOS DECISION TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO MOSCOW IS OF MOST INTEREST FOR WHAT IT REFLECTS ABOUT LOCAL LABOR SCENE. COMPETING LABOR FEDERATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE C-47 AND CLO ON ONE SIDE AND DE MOEDERBOND ON THE OTHER, HAVE FOUND IT NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK TOGETHER ON LABOR MOVEMENT ISSUES. DISUNITY HAS ALSO BEEN REFLECTED IN DE MOEDERBOND'S CARRYING OUT OF A SEPARATE LOCAL MAY DAY PROGRAM AND REFUSAL TO AGREE WITH NOMINEES AS PUT FORWARD BY OTHER LABOR FEDERATIONS FOR SURINAM'S WORKER DELEGATES TO THIS YEAR'S IL MEETING. DECISION ALSO REFLECTS GOS' INABILITY TO IGNORE EITHER DE MOEDERBOND OR ITS RIVALS BECAUSE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE CONTROL OF UNIONS AT VARIOUS PRESSURE POINTS IN SURINAM'S ECONOMY.  
ZURHELLEN

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## Message Attributes

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